

## Message Text

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44

ACTION INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1331

C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 4085

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, CA

SUBJ: NEW CANADIAN MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS - J. JUDD BUCHANAN

REF: OTTAWA 3705

1. J. JUDD BUCHANAN WAS BORN JULY 25, 1928, IN EDMONTON, ALBERTA, AND RECEIVED A B.A. FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA AND AN M.B.A. FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO. HE WORKED AS A LIFE INSURANCE AGENT IN LONDON, ONTARIO, AND WAS ELECTED TO COMMONS FROM THE LONDON WEST RIDING IN 1968. HE BECAME PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE MINISTER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS AND NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT IN 1970, AND WAS NAMED MINISTER IN THE PORTFOLIO IN AUGUST 1974.

2. BUCHANAN'S REIGN AT INDIAN AFFAIRS AND NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT WAS NOT A SUCCESS. IT IS AN ENORMOUSLY COMPLICATED POSITION AND, WITH INCREASING STRIDENCY OF NATIVE LEADERS AND THE RAPIDLY GROWING IMPORTANCE OF NORTHERN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, IT HAS BEEN SUGGESTED THAT THE JOB BE SPLIT IN TWO. WITH THE COMPLEXITY OF THE POSITION AND THE INHERENT TENSION BETWEEN THE TWO ELEMENTS OF IT, ONE WONDERS IF MANY LIBERAL MINISTERS WOULD HAVE DONE BETTER.

3. IN ANY CASE, BUCHANAN LOST THE CONFIDENCE OF NATIVE LEADERS WHO WERE OPENLY HOSTILE TO HIM AT THE END OF  
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HIS TENURE.

4. BUCHANAN'S REMOVAL FROM THE INDIAN AFFAIRS AND NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT WAS A MATTER OF POLITICAL EXPEDIENCE AS WAS HIS APPOINTMENT TO PUBLIC WORKS. BUCHANAN IS IN CHARGE OF FEDERAL PATRONAGE FOR ONTARIO, A PROVINCE WHICH WILL BE CRUCIAL IN THE NEXT FEDERAL ELECTIONS. GIVING HIM THE ADDED TASK OF PUBLIC WORKS WAS EVIDENTLY A SIGNAL THAT AMPLE PORK-BARREL MAY NOT BE FAR BEHIND.

5. BUCHANAN IS A VERY INTELLIGENT, CALM AND WELL ORGANIZED PERSON WITH A GREAT DEAL OF QUIET CHARM. HE IS WELL VERSED IN ATLANTIC AFFAIRS AND HAS PARTICIPATED IN SEVERAL PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATIONS TO THE PARLIAMENT OF EUROPE AND OTHER RELATIONS. HE IS A GOOD FRIEND OF THE UNITED STATES AND HAS BEEN ON CLOSE TERMS WITH SEVERAL MEMBERS OF THIS MISSION.

6. HE IS MARRIED TO THE FORMER KAY BALFOUR AND HAS THREE SONS.  
ENDERS

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## Message Attributes

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